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OUTGO

INDICATE: ☐ COLLECT
☐ CHARGE TO

Authority NWD 969000

By *[Signature]* HARA Date 2/25/98

Department of State

~~SECRET~~
Classification

10 JUN 69 15 25

FOR OC/T USE ONLY

Origin

ACTION: AmEmbassy, LAGOS ~~XXXXXX~~ IMMEDIATE

Info

INFO: AmEmbassy, ADDIS ABABA

" , COTONOU

" , LISBON

" , LONDON

USMission, GENEVA

REF: a) Lagos 5026; b) Lagos 5102; c) Lagos 5164

SUBJECT: FMG Attitude Toward Relief Flights

1. While recognizing FMG statement transmitted ref c apparently drafted by MinInfo officials and perhaps not rpt not cleared with Extstaff or higher echelon officials, Dept nevertheless ~~MinInfo not responsible and unhelpful~~ concerned at tone and content.

We particularly disturbed by extent to which shooting down of aircraft and June 7 statement conflict with assurances given Amb. Ferguson by Gowon that there had been no policy change which might lead to relief planes being attacked in air and that notice would be given all concerned should there be such change (refs a and b).

While leaving to your discretion whether to pave way with Arikpo 2./ You should ~~know for~~ seek early appointment with Gowon and (a) state that we are surprised while we do not wish enter public debate on matter, ~~express surprise~~ at June 7 statement, particularly its references to qte double standards and hypocrisy. We find it difficult to believe these represent official views of FMG. Quite apart from this, we seriously concerned over implications of last para of statement in light previous assurances given Ferguson; (b) explain our deep

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Tel. Ext.

Telegraphic transmission and

AF/W:RPSmith:bg 6/9/69

6402

classification approved by:

AF - Joseph Palmer 2nd *[Signature]*

Clearances:

AF - Ambassador Moore *[Signature]*U/CF - Ambassador Ferguson *[Signature]*~~SECRET~~
Classification

FORM 8-65 DS-322

DECLASSIFIED
PA/HO Department of State
E.O. 12958, as amended
April 21, 2005

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ACTION: AmEmbassy, LAGOS PRIORITY-

Info:

concern at shooting down of ICRC aircraft (heightened by presence Amcit pilot among crew of downed plane) in light those same assurances; (c) seek categorical ~~XX~~ re-statement from Gowon of his position that relief flights into Biafra would not rpt not be subject to interdiction in the air by military aircraft; (d) state that we recognize, as our June 6 statement made clear, problem caused by intermingling of arms flights and relief flights and danger of confusion this causes. However, interdiction of relief flights in air by NAF can only do grave damage to FMG in long run. We therefore continue to hope Gowon will adhere to policy he stated to Ferguson and insist on strict compliance by military and NAF units in field.

3. FYI: Joint Embassy-Datt message 0256 just received adds even greater urgency to above, especially to importance of Gowon's insuring that all military and NAF units comply with his orders. end FYI

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